

# Moves Are Stepped Up to Free 1200 Cuban Invasion Prisoners

By Gardner L. Bridge  
Associated Press

An attempt to win freedom by Christmas for the 1200 Cuban invasion prisoners appeared under way yesterday.

There were these developments:

- State Department press officer Lincoln White said he expects James B. Donovan, a New York lawyer who has been trying to obtain the prisoners' release, will return to Havana shortly to resume negotiations.

- Donovan arrived in Miami accompanied by two key figures in the negotiations, Alvaro Sanchez and Berta Barreto, and reportedly conferred with officials of the Cuban Families Committee. This is a committee of relatives of the prisoners that has been soliciting funds for their release.

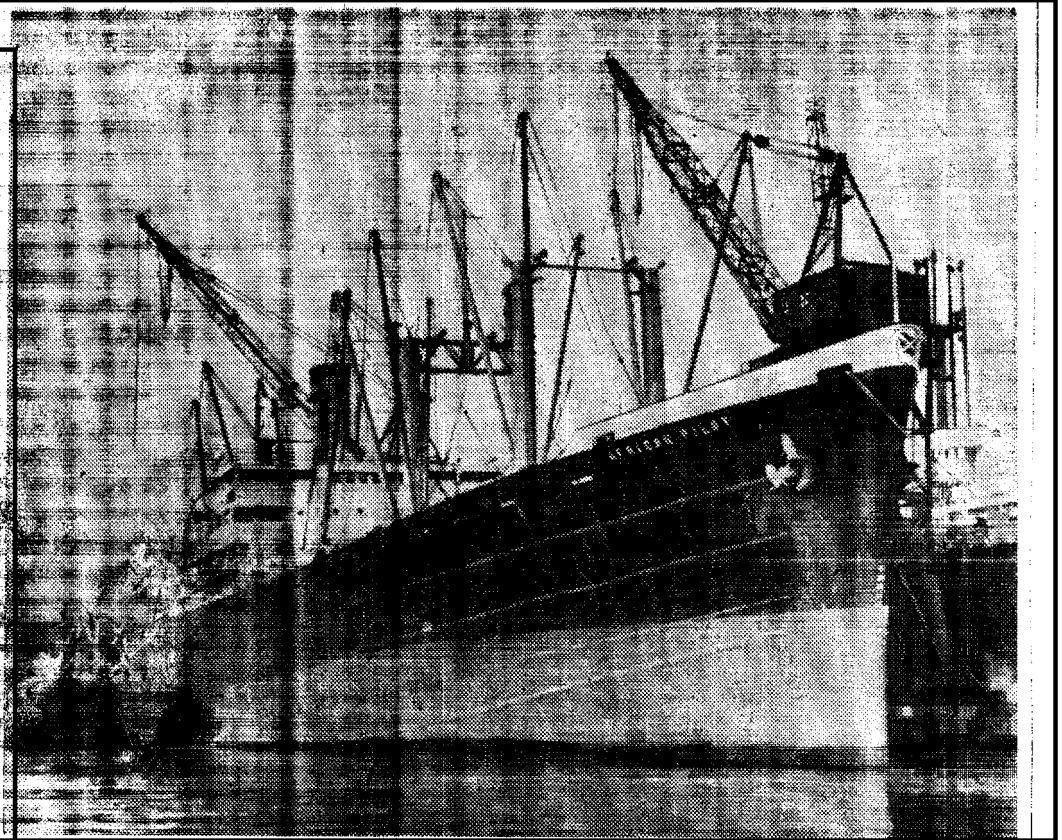
- The American freighter African Pilot sailed from Baltimore for Port Everglades, Fla., where American Red Cross officials said it will stand by to pick up food and medicines that may be delivered to Havana in exchange for the captives.

Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro has demanded \$62 million ransom for the prisoners, who were captured in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion attempt of April, 1961.

Officials at Port Everglades said they had been notified that the African Pilot would arrive there Wednesday. Red Cross officials said the freighter was made available by the Farrell Lines to carry food and drugs to Cuba if the Havana government accepts this offer.

Informants said the supplies ready for shipment had a retail value of about \$53 million.

Relatives of the prisoners in Havana expressed confidence that the captives would be freed before the end of the year. The mother of one told newsmen other mothers had been told by relatives in Miami that the negotiations were on the verge of success.



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The chartered ship African Pilot is shown at Baltimore as she underwent final preparations before departure for Miami

yesterday. It was believed the ship would pick up medical supplies in Miami to exchange for prisoners in Cuba.